

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1, 2, and 4-44 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 44 is canceled. Thus, the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 4, 5, 9, 19, 21, and 22 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,063,449 to Shibata et al. ("Shibata").

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-18, 20, and 23-39 are allowed.

Claim 44 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

Claim 40 has been amended to include the limitation of objected to claim 44. This change does not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shibata, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the limitation of objected to claim 44. As claim 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claim 40, which now includes the limitation of claim 44, is considered allowable. Claims 41-43 depend from

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claim 40. As claim 40 is considered allowable, claims 41-43 are considered allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shibata, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

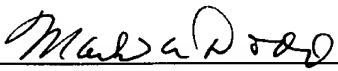
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account
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Respectfully submitted,

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